Fact Sheet 3
Antimicrobial Resistance and MRSA in Canada

• “Antimicrobial resistance has escalated to the point where it is believed to be one of the most serious threats to the treatment of infectious diseases worldwide.
• Antibiotic-resistant organisms are continuously eroding current drugs, leaving few or no alternative agents.”
• Controlling antibiotic resistance is difficult and requires a multi-modal response
• Staphylococcus aureus is the most common cause of infections ranging from mild to very severe. If Staph aureus develops resistance to the semisynthetic beta-lactam antibiotics it is described as Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).
• MRSA was first reported in the hospital setting but resistant strains are now emerging in the community.
• It is now widely known that these organisms are transferred in and out of the hospital or facility environment.
• The prevalence of MRSA is increasing in Canada.
• Five Characteristics known as the 5C’s contribute to the acquisition of staphylococcal infection (and MRSA where present):
  o Crowding
  o Contact
  o Compromised (broken skin)
  o Contaminated (shared) items or surfaces
  o Cleanliness (lack of)
• Optimal hand hygiene practices are critical elements to a multi-modal response to this health threat.


Information taken from the National Collaborating Center for Infectious Diseases (NCCID) at:
http://www.nccid.ca/en/antimicrobial-resistant-organisms

CHICA-Canada offers a number of valuable resources on this subject at: http://www.chica.org/links_aro.html

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